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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/445,154	03/06/2000	STEPHEN CHARLES WILLIAMS	1348.017 USU	9571

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OHLANDT GREELY RUGGIERO & PERLE
ONE LANDMARK SQUARE
SUITE 903
STAMFORD, CT 06901

EXAMINER

OLSEN, KAJ K

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1744

DATE MAILED: 03/27/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

MFG

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/445,154	WILLIAMS ET AL.
Examiner	Art Unit	
Kaj Olsen	1744	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 December 2001.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-3,5,6,8,9,11,12,14 and 15 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-3,5,6,8,9,11,12,14 and 15 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
- Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ . 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

2. Claims 1, 2, 8, 14, and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) or 102(e) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Carter et al (5,628,890).

3. Carter teaches an electrochemical device which comprises a non-conductive substrate 1, a conductive layer (2-5, and 5a) which has a gap for facilitating the electrochemical analysis (fig. 1).

Carter further teaches an analyte specific reagent (8, 8a), a reference electrode (6a-6c), a spacer layer (either 7 or the lower layer 11), a monofilament mesh (9 or 10) coated with a surfactant (col. 5, lines 12-26) and laid over the reagent (fig. 1), and a second non-conductive layer (11 and/or 13). It would appear the second non-conductive layer is not coextensive with the mesh (fig. 1) and provides a sample application area at one edge of the mesh giving the claim language it's broadest reasonable interpretation. Aperture 12 defines a portion not coextensive with element 10 while aperture 14 defines a portion of 13 not coextensive with 10. 12 is off to one edge of 10 (fig. 1) while 14 is off to one edge of 10 (i.e. the aperture is off to one edge of the raised portion shown in fig. 1a).

4. Alternatively, although Carter does not show drawings having the apertures at the furthest end, Carter teaches that aperture 14 should be at the end most remote from electrode 6b and should not expose any of the electrodes (col. 6, lines 28-36). In view of these suggestions, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was being made to place the aperture at the extreme end of the mesh material to ensure the aperture does not expose the electrodes and places the aperture as far from the reference electrode as desired.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

7. Claims 3 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Carter ('890) in view of Hill et al (5,820,551).

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8. Carter teaches all the limitations of the claims, but does not teach the use of glucose dehydrogenase. Carter utilizes glucose oxidase. Hill teaches that both glucose oxidase and glucose dehydrogenase are both known in the art as suitable enzymes for electrodes (col. 4, line 42). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was being made to utilize the teaching of Hill for the device of Carter because the art recognized that glucose dehydrogenase was a suitable alternative enzyme for the sensing of glucose.

9. Claims 5 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Carter ('890) in view of Durst et al (6,248,596).

10. Carter sets forth all the limitations of the claim, but does not explicitly teach the presence of a cell lytic agent. Carter does set forth that it is useful to perform a cell lysis step in order to remove red blood cells interference (col. 1, lines 20-29). Durst teaches that cell lysis in electrochemical sensors can be achieved by the addition of cell lytic agents to the sensor itself (paragraph bridging col. 13 and 14). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was being made to utilize a cell lytic agent as taught by Durst for the sensor of Carter in order to remove interference from cells in the sample without requiring a preliminary sample preparation.

11. Claims 6 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Carter ('890) in view of Maley et al (5,770,028) and Johnson et al (5,429,735).

12. Carter sets forth all the limitations of the claims, but does not disclose the claimed combination of graphite, carbon, and polymer for the conductive layer. Johnson teaches the use of an ink for glucose sensors which comprises a combination of carbon black and graphite particles (col. 2, lines 21-23). Although Johnson doesn't explicitly set forth a polymer binder, it

is conventional in the art to utilize a binder in conjunction the conductive ink (in the absence of a binder, nothing will hold the conductive particles together). In particular, Maley teaches the use of a resin binder in conjunction with the conductive carbon particles for an ink (col. 15, lines 31-34). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was being made to utilize the combined teachings of Johnson and Maley for the electrode of Carter because the combination of graphite and an additional form of carbon has been found to be an effective electrode for blood glucose sensing. With respect the claimed particle sizes and surface areas, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was being made to utilize the set forth ranges. Maley teaches that it is known to control the carbon particle sizes in order to control the quality of the electrode (col. 14, lines 41-50; and col. 15, lines 6-10). Because it is known in the art to control particle sizes, since it has been held that where the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, discovering the optimum or workable ranges involves only routine skill in the art. *In re Aller*, 105 USPQ 233.

Response to Arguments

13. In view of the applicant's arguments concerning the objection to the declaration, the objection is hereby withdrawn.
14. Applicant's arguments filed on 12-10-2001 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant discusses the differences between the instant invention and the teaching of Carter and discusses why they are different. In particular, applicant demonstrates via cartoon how the instant invention differs from the teaching of Carter. Although the examiner recognizes the structure that distinguishes the operation of Carter from the instant invention, the examiner

reminds the applicant that the distinction between the instant invention and the prior art must be based on the claims themselves. In the previous office action (which is also repeated above), the examiner set forth why the instant invention's claims do not read free of Carter. In particular, the second non-conducting layer of Carter (either 11 or 13) is not coextensive with the mesh because it does not completely overlap the mesh (the apertures 14 and 12 define an area of absence of coextension (fig. 1)). This is not the same absence of coextension as shown in fig. 1a of the instant invention, but Carter still reads on this limitations of the claims giving the claim language its broadest reasonable interpretation. In addition, this absence of coextension provides a sample application area at one edge of the mesh (again, see above). The applicant has not clearly set forth why the examiner's interpretation of the claim language is improper and why the limitations utilized by the applicant read free of Carter. Hence the rejection is maintained.

15. Applicant also urges that Carter was cited in a PCT Written Opinion and the claims were found to be both novel and inventive over this reference. However, exact claim interpretation varies from patent office to patent office and the examiner is under no obligation to arrive at the same opinion of a foreign patent examiner concerning whether a reference reads on an applicant's claims. If the applicant believes the examiner has made an error with respect to his claim interpretation, then the applicant is invited to explicitly describe what said error is.

Conclusion

16. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kaj Olsen whose telephone number is (703) 305-0506. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 8:30 AM-6:00 PM. The examiner can also be reached on alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Robert Warden, can be reached at (703) 308-2920.

When filing a fax in Group 1700, please indicate in the header "Official" for papers that are to be entered into the file, and "Unofficial" for draft documents and other communications with the PTO that are not for entry into the file of this application. This will expedite processing of your papers. The fax number for non-after final communications is (703) 872-9310 and the fax number for after-final communications is (703) 872-9311.

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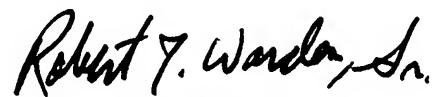
Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist, whose telephone number is (703) 308-0661.

Kaj K. Olsen, Ph.D.



Patent Examiner

AU 1744



ROBERT J. WARDEN, SR.
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1700